

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/078138 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q 1/68**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/004300

(22) International Filing Date: 11 February 2005 (11.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/543,629 11 February 2004 (11.02.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 2005/078138 A1

(54) Title: TARGET GENES FOR INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

(57) Abstract: Two genes have been discovered that show single nucleotide polymorphisms that are differentially expressed in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) as compared to unaffected controls. These two genes, FLJ21425 and CSF1R (colony stimulating factor 1 receptor), are located close together on chromosome 5q33 which was known to have other IBD susceptibility genes. Moreover, expression of the CSF1R gene was shown in the intestinal epithelium. These two genes can be used to test for the presence of the allele associated with IBD for an early diagnosis of susceptibility to IBD. Early identification of subjects with susceptibility to IBD will enable early treatment with known methods. Additionally, the two genes can be used to target treatment, e.g., drugs known to affect CSF1R expression. Based on gene expression data, chromosomal location and biological function, the colony stimulating factor 1 receptor gene was shown to contribute to Crohn's disease susceptibility.